

Her Excellency Carla Elisa Mucavi
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Thank you very much.

Mr Chairman of the Conference, Mr Director-General of the FAO, Mr Independent Chairperson of the Council, Ministers and Vice-Ministers, Ambassadors, Permanent Representatives, Heads of delegations, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Allow me first to congratulate you, Mr Chairman of the Conference, on your election and on the way in which you have been conducting the work of this 38th Conference of the FAO.

I would also like to say how grateful we are to the FAO Director-General for the support he has always linked to our country. Particularly for Mozambique, he has helped us to develop and implement our master plan for agricultural statistics, the implementation of the food security and resilience project for vulnerable families with regard to an increase in productivity and production.

These actions highlight the importance of FAO's programmes in guaranteeing a food security of its Member Nations. The Government of Mozambique supports the Medium-Term Plan 2014-2017 and the Programme of Work proposed by the Director-General.

This Conference is a step forward in the process to eradicate hunger and to reduce the effects of poverty through the formulation of guidelines which demonstrate to governments the conviction and the involvement of this Organization. The importance of food sovereignty in the world agriculture is a fundamental pillar for economic and social development on a sustainable basis in our countries.

The Government is placing its hopes in increasing agricultural productivity and production through the creation and transfer of agricultural technologies to create the conditions for market access and training, promotion of sustainable management of natural resources and strengthening of good governance and democracy, as well as intelligent partnerships and dialogue among the different stakeholders in the production and value chain.

In this context, and as part of regional integration in the Southern African development community, we are involved in the formulation of a regional agricultural policy, an instrument which will provide all Member Nations with the unique opportunity to strengthen solid, regional integration, as well as allowing for better coordination of policies, economic and social coordination and public actions for food and interest in security in Mozambique in our region.

The meeting of Ministers responsible for agriculture and food security, which was held in June in Maputo, adopted the regional agricultural policy as a whole, recommending that states launch an internal consultation process in order to implement this.

In this context, the Government of Mozambique will implement mechanisms for consultation involving all partners in agricultural sector by December this year, including the adoption of a binding mechanism. Furthermore, as part of the Portuguese-speaking community, Mozambique is implementing the Food Security and Nutrition strategy, mobilizing politicians around a comprehensive vision with regard to the matter. This also includes the training of managers.

The Government is also committed to fighting hunger and poverty within the framework of the comprehensive Africa Agricultural Plan. We have adopted a ten-year Strategic Plan to this purpose with four pillars, namely: increasing productivity and production as well as competitiveness in agriculture,

services, infrastructure for better market access, sustainable and integrated use of natural resources and strengthening of agricultural institutions.

This plan is a guiding framework and an instrument for harmonization that mobilizes synergies to stimulate agricultural development. In order to implement the Strategic Plan, we developed the National Investment Plan, that responds to our firm belief that an increase in productivity is essential in order to stimulate the agricultural sector.

Mr Chairman, our aim is to make family-subsistence farmers into competitive players on the market, to create an investment-favourable environment that also provides agricultural services.

I would like to conclude by stating that agricultural production is our safeguard. We have the right to produce, to have access to food in appropriate quantity and quality for a healthy life. That is why we are all participating to the transformation of subsistence farmers into farmers who are open and market-oriented.